

## CLAIMS

1. Process for storing and accessing data in databases of  
a computerized travel reservation system, characterized by the  
5 fact that

- for each type of information to be stored, there are  
created rules associating:

- a set of criteria defining the trips to which the  
information is applicable,

10       ▪ a content representing the value of the  
information to be applied;

1       - the set of criteria of a rule comprising a pair of  
markets with a market of origin which is defined as the  
geographic zone of departure of the trip and a destination  
15 market which is defined as the geographic zone of arrival of the  
trip,

- the defined markets are stored in a database,

- the created rules are stored in a database.

20       2. Process according to claim 1 characterized by the fact  
that each market is defined by a geographic zone selected  
from the following types of geographic zones: airport, city,  
state and country, country, geographical region, world or a  
combination of these types of geographical zones.

3. Process according to claim 2 characterized by the fact  
that there is created a table in which there is assigned to  
each type of geographical zone a priority rank decreasing as a  
5 function of the precision of the geographical zone.

4. Process according to claim 3 characterized by the fact  
that the priority of each market is determined according to  
the priority rank of the type of geographical zones which define  
10 it or by the combination of the priority ranks of the types of  
geographical zones which define it.

5. Process according to claim 4 characterized by the fact  
that the priority of each pair of markets is determined by  
15 adding the priority of the market of origin to the priority of  
the destination market.

6. Process according to any one of claims 1 to 5  
characterized by the fact

20 - that there are used additional criteria in the set of  
criteria,

- that a weight is assigned to each additional criterion  
defining its degree of importance.

7. Process according to claim 5 characterized by the fact that the stored rule corresponding to a trip search is accessed by:

- 5           ▪ entering the region of origin and the region of destination of the trip,
- searching for the pairs of markets which agree with said origin and destination regions,
- 10          ▪ computing the priority of each pair of markets agreeing with said origin and destination regions,
- returning the content of the rule having the pair of markets whose priority has the lowest value.

8. Process according to claim 7 characterized by the fact that

if two pairs of agreeing markets have a same priority value, the content of the rule is returned for the market of origin having the lowest priority value.

20          9. Process according to claim 7 or claim 8 in combination with claim 6 characterized by the fact that

- 1°. additional trip search criteria are entered,
- 2°. for each rule whose pair of markets agrees with the origin and destination regions, there are computed

the weight of the rule corresponding to the sum of the weights of the additional criteria of the rule,

3°. the rule which has the highest weight is selected,

4°. if the additional search criteria for the trip do not agree with the additional criteria of the selected rule, the rule which has the immediately lower weight is selected,

5°. if the additional search criteria of the trip agree with the additional criteria of the rule selected in the last instance, the content of the rule is stored,

6°. to the extent the stored content responds only partially to the additional trip search criteria, steps 3° to 5° are repeated,

7°. the content of the rules which has been stored is returned.

10. Device for storing and accessing data in databases of a computerized trip reservation system adapted to use the process according to any one of claims 1 to 9 characterized by the fact

- that it comprises means for storing markets of origin defined by the geographical zones for departure of the trips and the destination markets defined by the geographical zones of arrival of the trips,

- that for each type of information to be stored, it comprises means for acquiring rules associating:

- a set of criteria defining the trips to which the information applies,
- 5       ▪ a content representing the value of information to be applied

- that it comprises means for storing acquired rules.

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